

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5 1. **(Previously presented)** A method for redirecting a user from a second web site to a first web site, comprising the steps of:

 (1) providing, by the second web site, a URL offering a product or service to the user, said URL specifying a program on the second web site;

 (2) reading, by said program, a small sharable file located in the user's
10 computer in response to the user activating said URL;

 (3) providing a positive indication when an inquiry by said program, to said small sharable file determines that the user already possesses said product or service;

 (4) redirecting, by said program, the user to the first web site when the indication of step (3) is positive, wherein the first web site is specified by said small
15 sharable file; and

 (5) offering, by the second web site, to supply said product or service to the user when the indication of step (3) is not positive;

 whereby the user who already possesses said product or service will not receive duplicate offers to supply said product or service from multiple web sites.

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2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said providing of step (1) comprises at least one of the following steps of:

sending an e-mail including a link to said URL to the user;

providing a web page including a link to said URL to the user; and

5 providing a computer program including a link to said URL to the user.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein said activating of step (2) comprises at least one of the steps of:

clicking a link to said URL on a web page;

10 clicking a link to said URL in an e-mail; and

executing a computer program that activates a link to said URL.

4. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:

placing, by the first web site, said small sharable file on the user's computer in

15 response to the user registering with the first web site for said product or service, said small sharable file including the URL of the first web site.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said program is a server side program.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein said program is at least one of the following:

a CGI script;

a Java servlet;

5 a PHP script; and

a Perl script.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said program is a client side program that is downloaded from the second web site.

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8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, wherein said program is at least one of the following:

a Java applet;

a Java script; and

15 an Active X control.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A system for re-directing a user from a second web site to a first web site, comprising:

means for providing, in the second web site, a URL offering a product or service to the user, said URL specifying a program on the second web site;

5 means for reading, in said program, a small sharable file located on the user's computer in response to the user activating said URL;

means for providing, in said program, a indication when said program determines whether the user already possesses said product or service;

means for redirecting, in said program, the user to the first web site when the
10 result of said ~~determining means~~ indication is positive, wherein the first web site is specified by said small sharable file; and

means for offering, in the second web site, to supply said product or service to the user when the result of said ~~determining means~~ indication is not positive;

whereby the user who already possesses said product or service will not receive
15 duplicate offers to supply said product or service from multiple web sites.

10. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 9, wherein said providing means comprises at least one of:

means for sending an e-mail including a link to said URL to the user;

20 means for providing a web page including a link to said URL to the user; and

means for providing a computer program including link to said URL to the user.

11. **(Original)** The system of claim 10, wherein said activating of said URL comprises at least one of:

clicking a link to said URL on a web page;

clicking a link to said URL in an e-mail; and

5 executing a computer program that activates a link to said URL.

12. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for placing, in the first web site, said small sharable file on the user's computer in response to the user registering with the first web site for said product or
10 service, said small sharable file including the URL of the first web site.

13. **(Original)** The system of claim 9, wherein said program is a server side program.

14. **(Original)** The system of claim 13, wherein said program is at least one of the

15 following:

a CGI script;

a Java servlet;

a PHP script; and

a Perl script;

20 15. **(Original)** The system of claim 9, wherein said program is a client side program that is downloaded from the second web site.

16. **(Original)** The system of claim 15, wherein said program is at least one of the following:

a Java applet;

a Java script; and

5 an Active X control.

17. **(Currently amended)** A computer program product comprising a computer ~~usable~~
executable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to re-direct
a user from a second web site to a first web site, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide
5 a URL offering a product or service to the user;

second computer readable program code means for causing the computer to read a
small sharable file located on the user's computer in response to the user activating said
URL;

third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide
10 a positive indication in response to an inquiry to said small sharable file as to whether the
user already possesses said product or service when the user does already possess said
product or service;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to
redirect the user to the first web site when the result of said third means is a positive
15 indication, wherein the first web site is specified by said small sharable file; and

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to offer to
~~supply~~ said product or service to the user when the result of said third means is not a
positive indication;

whereby the user who already possesses said product or service will not receive
20 duplicate offers to supply said product or service from multiple web sites.

18. **(Original)** The computer program of claim 17, wherein said first means comprises at least one of:

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to send an e-mail including a link to said URL to the user;

5 computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide a web page including a link to said URL to the user; and

computer readable code means for causing the computer to provide a computer program including a link to said URL to the user.